

Family Miscellany.

For The Principia.

MY FLORA.

My only child's sixteen to-day—
And yet my head's not fleck'd with gray;
I seem to feel as young as when,
Like her, I ran through field and fen,
And in my gambols free and wild
Sought the cheap pleasures of a child.
For no one else did I care,
That life below would ever end.

But when I see her quietly grace
Her sparkling eyes, her smiling face,
Or when she comes with childish glee,
To sit again upon my knee,
And from my whisks, here and there,
Seeks out a silver hair;—
Ah! then I feel, or grieve or grieve,
Life's sands are running fast away.

And yet it seems but yesterday
Since on a summer evening bright,
I sought my Mary 'neath the vine,
And asked her Mary 'neath the vine.
But years have passed—almost a score,
Since Mary answered—"Evermore!"
And still she's young, and bright, and gay,
Although our child's sixteen to-day.

A. R. C.

March 11, 1894.

From the Boston Recorder.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN.

There was heavy fighting, the papers said,
And we drove the enemy back;
—but the fact is, the mountain was dead—
Their dead were heaped in our track.

Then we read the names of the troops engaged—
That regiment he was in;
And it fought where the carnage was deep;
Till its ranks were broken and thin.

They came in slowly, the lists of the dead,
And we read them day by day;
—Till at last "God kept him safe," we said,
"Let us thank him when we pray."

He was only a child's friend, 'tis true;
We had parted years ago;
—but he looked for us as we looked for him,
And he loved us as we loved him.

We found it, one morning the well-known name,
And a silence fell for a while;
Not of upward steps in the road to fame,
Thought of honors to the field.

There was heavy fighting—you know the rest—
The living under our feet;
—but the fact is, the mountain was dead—
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FOR THE CHILDREN.

THE BLIND BOY.

"Dear Mary," said the poor blind boy,
"That little bird sings very sweetly;
Say, do you see him in his joy?"
"He is as pretty as his song."

"Yes, Edward," replied the maid,
"I see the bird on yonder tree;
The poor boy sigh'd and gently said,
"Sister, I wish that I could see."

"The flowers, you say, are very fair,
And bright green leaves are on the trees,
And pretty birds are singing there;
How beautiful for one who sees!"

"Yet I feel the green leaves shade
And I can feel the green leaves shade
And I can hear the notes that swell
From those dear birds that God has made."

"So, sister, God is very kind,
Though sight to me he has not given;
But tell me, are there any blind
Among the children up in heaven?"

"Ere long disease his hand has laid
On that dear boy, so meek and mild;
His widow'd mother weeps and prays,
That God would spare her sightless child."

"He felt her warm tears on his face,
And said—'Oh, never weep for me;
I'm going to a brighter place,
Where God, my Saviour, I shall see.'"

"And you'll be there, kind Mary, too;
But mother, when you get up there,
Tell me, dear mother, that 'tis you
Who know I never saw her here."

"He spoke no more, but sweetly smiled,
And the last hour was given;
When God took up that blind child,
And open'd his eyes in heaven."

For The Principia.

It was a mild, sunny morning, in that
most glorious of all months, October. A
hazy, dreamy sunshine it was, of the kind
which makes one loathe to lean on the sill of an
open window, listening to the falling of leaves,
the rustling of the corn, and all the great,
quiet hum of Nature's invisible machinery;
when eyes looking afar off, over the red and
yellow dabbies in the front yard, and the golden
rod at the edge of the meadow, see visions
which will never be written or told, and hearts
have a sad reaching out after something be-
yond—something higher and holier.

But Maria and Lucy Walker, who were
playing at housekeeping in the large kitchen
chamber of an old-fashioned farm-house, had
no eyes for the white, fleecy clouds that, like
baby snowdrifts, sailed lazily over the blue
face of the sky, nor ears for the pleasant
sounds of out-door life. Weighty matters
were pressing heavily on their young minds.
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